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The Guide

YOUR ESSENTIAL PULLOUT TO WHAT'S ON AND WHEN

Diana takes second shot at stardom

By JESSICA CREE

Pop sensation Diana Vickers has confirmed that she is preparing to release her second album.

The former pupil at Westholme School, Blackburn, who found stardom after appearing on The X Factor, made the announcement on Twitter that she was shooting a music video which would be featured on the new record.

Diana, 21, from Huncoat, also posted a picture on the social networking site of some wigs that were being used in the video, which is being shot in Los Angeles. She tweeted: "On set for my new music video for my 2nd album!!

"So so so so excited!!!!!"

Diana's debut single Once charted at number one on the UK singles chart after it was released in April 2010 and her first album, Songs from the Tainted Cherry Tree, sold more than 200,000 copies.

It is expected her next album, the name of which has not yet been announced, will be released later this year. Anneka Griffiths, who works with Diana, also tweeted: "This @DianaVickers video is going to be so good I have constant butterflies.

"There's never been a girl so deserving of such a fabulous video."

Diana, who now lives in London, revisited her old school for the first time since leaving four years ago earlier this month to officially open its new music centre.

She took part in a question-and-answer session with pupils, and also performed for staff, students, family, and friends, and the public, after the opening.

During the visit, she said: "The album has taken me two years to write as I wanted time to figure out what kind of artist I wanted to be.

"It's a bit of a change in direction."

POP STARLET: Diana Vickers is set to release her second album

Tippers leave street infested with rats

Fed-up residents say fly-tipped bags of rotting food are attracting rats.

Residents in St Albans Road, Darwen, said they were left disgusted when bags of food, and clothing, were left by tippers.

STORY 3

LEAGUE PLAY AT TOWER

Chart-toppers The Human League will be playing in the grounds of Hoghton Tower this summer. The pioneering electro-pop outfit will give a special concert on Friday, July 5, along with special guests, in aid of St Catherine's Hospice.

TIME 13

Marathon challenge

Blackburn Rovers fan Andrew Higginson has battled back from the brink and fought off cancer – and now he hopes to conquer the London Marathon and raise money for cancer charities.

STORY 6

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Citizen In brief

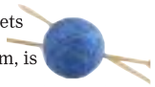
Award-winning movie at film theatre

Movie Hear My Song will be shown as part of Darwen Library Theatre's film society meeting on April 9.

The screening of the 1991 comedy will start at 2pm at Knott Street cinema.

Tickets cost £3 and are available by calling 01254 706006.

Join knitting group



New members are invited to join Shadworth's knitting group. Anyone who fancies joining the group, which meets every Monday between 6pm and 8pm, is urged to attend Shadsworth Community Centre, in Rothesay Road.

The group is also appealing for donations of scrap or spare wool. For more information call Gemma on 07443 000176.

Enjoy a GI Jive

GI Jive, along with Katie Spitfire, is having an evening of dance and fun at Poplar Social Club, Accrington, on Saturday, April 6. Tickets are £4 on the door, the event begins at 7.30 pm. For more information on the event call 01254871020.

Fly-tippers cause plague of rodents

Bags of rotten food are left in alleyway for week

Fed-up residents say fly-tipped bags of rotting food are attracting rats.

Residents in St Albans Road, Darwen, said they were left disgusted when bags of food and clothing were left at the rear of homes.

One resident said she had reported the fly-tipping but nothing was done for a week.

She said: "It's really disgusting and both my husband and I have seen rats as a result.

"The bags have just been dumped there.

"Some seem to have clothes in and the other bags are filled with rotting food.

"Of course if they are there for an amount of time, the bags get ripped open by cats and dogs. It's left a disgraceful mess, and it's been eight days since I reported it to the council. My husband rang back a few days ago but we've still seen nothing done about it.

"It does make you very annoyed because you are constantly told they want you to report these problems but when you do, nothing gets done."

Earcroft councillor Trevor Maxfield promised to take the problem up.

He said: "That's not something residents should have to put up with and I will be speaking to waste services to see that something is done."

Executive for Environmental Improvement and Sustainability, Coun Faryad Hussain, said: "We investigate any incidents of fly-tipping and we prosecute where possible.

"Fly-tipping causes great disruption and upset as well as being a health hazard.

"If you see anyone dumping rubbish or acting suspiciously, please report them by calling 01254 585921."

YOU DIRTY RATS: Rubbish in a back alley off St Albans Road and, inset, Coun Trevor Maxfield

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The Citizen

By George! It's party time

Groups are being urged to join in a St George's Day celebration in Darwen.

The event, on Saturday, April 20, will take place from 11am to 4pm in the Market Square.

Interested groups, or charities, can email Coun East at jeast@darwentowncouncil.org.uk with their ideas to celebrate England's patron saint.

NEED TO IMPROVE: Chief executive Mark Brearley

Improvement call as A&E demand soars

Hospitals in East Lancashire will need to learn lessons from a difficult period which saw a huge surge in patients seeking emergency care, health bosses were told.

Demand for emergency services has spiked since January, with staff at the Royal Blackburn Hospital having to deal with up to 700 extra attendances per week.

There have been long waits for hundreds of patients, while bosses had to cancel about 60 non-urgent operations earlier this month.

This has led to East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust, which also runs Burnley General, slipping slightly off target on a key performance measure – for patients being seen within four hours of arrival at A&E.

There was also a rise in the number of complaints in February, which the meeting was told was inevitable when pressures on services increase.

Val Bertenshaw, director of operations, told a board meeting that non-elective admissions to the hospitals had increased by six per cent, with emergency admissions up 11 per cent.

SURGE: The Royal Blackburn Hospital

She said this was 'unusually high, even for a normal winter', but warned these levels are likely to be repeated, or even surpassed, next year.She said: "Going forward I can't say this is going to change quickly. And really more of the same isn't going to be enough for us.

"We still have areas where our internal processes are not as smart as they should be. We need to do something different."

She suggested the hospitals could improve its processes for discharging patients, which would help free up beds, while more patients should be assessed at the door and directed to other services such as their GP, where appropriate.

Chief executive Mark Brearley said people in the north west used emergency services at a much higher rate than in other regions, but said there had been a 'greater acknowledgement of the need to do something about this as a health community.

Possible reasons put forward for people presenting themselves at A&E include not being able to get an immediate appointment with a GP and people hoping to avoid prescription costs.

The trust is facing increasing financial pressures.

As revealed in the Lancashire Telegraph yesterday, bosses have to find savings of £85 million in the next five years, which means the workforce will need to shrink by 500 full time jobs.

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People looking for basic computer lessons can find free help with getting online, how to use the mouse and keyboard, how to search the web safely, how to apply for jobs and how to use public services.

The free classes take place every Tuesday between 10am and 11.30am.

To book call 01706 215690.

Pie and folk night

Knowle Green Village Hall will host an evening with Tony Berry from the Houghton Weavers on Friday. Entry for the talk, which will start at 7.30pm, costs £8, including pie and peas.

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A marathon challenge for cancer survivor

By LAWRENCE DUNHILL

Blackburn Rovers fan Andrew Higginson has battled back from the brink and fought off cancer — and now he hopes to conquer the London Marathon.

Six years ago Andrew started coughing up blood, and was devastated when doctors told him he had testicular cancer at the age of just 24.

The Bolton Road resident, now 30, said: "It started in my testicles but spread to my left lung. The doctors said it was very serious and my quality of life was in danger of changing forever. I had to have constant chemotherapy for about six months and ended up having to have my lung removed.

"I just always tried to look to the future and hoped it wouldn't last forever.

"I never got down about it and actually looked upon cancer as a challenge. The chemotherapy is like a run — you just have to keep going against the assault on your body and keep mentally strong."

TAKING ITS TOLL: Andrew when he was undergoing intensive chemotherapy treatment for testicular cancer, and right, in training for the London marathon in April

Following a steady recovery Andrew, who works as a mentor at Beacon Reach children's home in Ribchester, wanted to set his body a series of challenges, leading up to the marathon on April 21.

He said: "Once you've had your body go through something so brutal as chemotherapy you're willing to push it further because you appreciate it.

"I've done the Bath Half Marathon and the Great North Run and wanted to do a full marathon.

"The training has gone really well and I'm running up to 16 miles at the moment. I feel pretty pumped up for it."

He is aiming to raise £2,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support, with donations so far totalling £1,200.

Citizen In brief

Free travel on the sports bus

Free travel and activities for young people are offered by Chorley Council every Saturday.

Youngsters aged 12 to 16 can catch the sports bus to and from leisure centres from all parts of the borough to take part. For details, call 01257 515151

Give blood day

Give blood sessions are being held in the King George's Hall, Blackburn, on Tuesday, April 30 between 2pm and 4pm and 5pm and 7.30pm.

Fantastic food

Stalls are still available for foodies in Lancashire to take part in a major event.

The Fantastic Food Show, which features chef Nigel Haworth, still has stall places available for the event at Ewood Park in May. To take part call 01254 222244.

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Diabetes patients 'in limbo'

By LAWRENCE DUNHILL

A diabetes campaigner has accused East Lancashire health chiefs of 'losing interest' in the disease.

Gordon Dixon, who has lived with diabetes for 40 years, said vital plans to help newly-diagnosed patients cope with the condition have been left in limbo, and feared they will now be forgotten.

The Langho resident has been a patient representative for NHS East Lancashire, and was involved in a summit last year which found diabetes patients should be offered more education and information about the disease.

Last June bosses agreed to set up a focus group to ensure classes were available and offered to patients, but Mr Dixon said nothing has happened since then.

The courses help people self-manage the condition, but Mr Dixon believes many patients are not being informed about them by their GP — leading to a lack of demand and fewer courses.

The 74-year-old chairman of the Ribble Valley Group of Diabetes UK, said: "The focus group hasn't taken place despite several promptings from myself. A few weeks ago they sent an email saying they weren't going to do it. They seem to have lost interest.

"These courses are crucial because patients only get two check-ups a year and often don't get information about how to control their blood sugars."

Diabetes sufferers are at increased risk of heart disease and stroke so, Mr Dixon, of Higherfield, said, the NHS could actually save money in the long term by investing more cash in education programmes.

About 19,000 people East Lancashire have diabetes.

NHS East Lancashire was disbanded under the government's health reforms last week, and Mr Dixon feared last year's work will be lost as its commissioning role passes over to East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

But Susan Warburton, who was head of community services at NHS East Lancashire and has now transferred to the CCG, said improving support for diabetes patients will be a "key priority". She said a diabetes service currently being rolled out will continue to offer local self-management courses.

She added: "The CCG undertook work last year with diabetes patients to understand how we could help them further in managing their condition, plus informing them of the educational services available."

"Listening to our patients and using their feedback is very valuable to us in shaping future services."

FOCUS GROUP WORRIES: Gordon Dixon, chairman of Ribble Valley Group of Diabetes UK

Classics top bill at concert

Blackburn Music Society is inviting enthusiasts to its spring concert at Blackburn Cathedral on May 4 from 7.30pm. Mozart's Requiem and Haydn's St Nicholas Mass will be performed. Book on 01254 201978.

Acapella treat

Acapella Group Coope, Boyes and Simpson will be performing at the Mellor Brook Community Centre from 7.30pm on Saturday Tickets are £12 on 07991558554.

Event sings with one voice

One Heart, One Voice Blackburn music day will be held on April 20 with performances at St Wilfrid's Academy in Duckworth Street and Blackburn Cathedral. Email ministry@blackburn.anglican.org for booking and ticket details.

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DARE TOP DREAM Outgoing, open Darwen female, 32, likes keeping fit, socialising with friends, cinema, walks, meals out, seeking a guy, for a permanent relationship. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 136745 or send a text to 80360**

COME CLOSER Bubbly and interesting 35yr old Bolton girl, full-time student, enjoys concerts, theatre, pubs and getting out and about, looking for friendship initially, with a fun and creative-minded man. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 119064**

LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN Down-to-earth Blackburn female, 41, works full-time, likes boxing, going to the gym, walks and travel, seeking to make new friends, to enjoy life with and hopefully more. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 126532 or send a text to 80360**

LOVE INSPIRATION Sincere, loyal, hard-working, attractive Bradford female, 43, brown-hair, blue-eyes, many interest, seeks that special man, to share life and laughter. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 131572 or send a text to 80360**

TENDERNESS Friendly Bolton female, 44, nurse, enjoys gym, cinema, swimming and more, seeks kind, caring man, for an understanding, lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 107651**

MEETING OF MINDS Self-assured, feisty and interesting Bolton girl, 47, 5'11'', with many interests, just looking to meet a nice, gregarious, wise man, to share company, nights out, friendship and close times. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 139942 or send a text to 80360**

NICE AND CURVY Decent-looking Lancs girl, 47, nice & curvy, very passionate & loving, wltm genuine, honest, good-looking male for a long term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 101569**

OUR MOMENT Slim, divorced Bolton female, 48, 5'11'', active lifestyle, enjoys riding, the beach and more, searching for similar sincere, easygoing man, who enjoys travel and an active life. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 103002 or send a text to 80360**

A LOT TO GIVE Genuine female, 49 years old, looking for a gentleman for a life-time relationship, likes cooking, travel, most things. Blackburn. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 854547**

FOR YOUR LOVE Straight-forward, traditional and outgoing Burnley lady, 52, wants to meet a decent, sincere male, to find love and true happiness. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 134281 or send a text to 80360**

QUALITY TIME TOGETHER Young at heart, divorced lady, 52 with a GSOH seeks a male 45-55 to share life and a laugh with. Enjoys the gym, salsa and tap dancing. Blackburn. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 111803**

FUN TIMES TOGETHER Reliable, honest Blackburn female, 52, 5'10'', hazel-eyes, slim-build, own house and car, likes nights out, holidays, holidays and having a laugh, wltm a man, to share life with.. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 128273 or send a text to 80360**

TELL IT TO MY HEART Hardworking Clitheroe lady, 53, own house, likes socialising with friends, cooking, eating in and out, holidays, seeking an attractive man, to settle down with. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 126004 or send a text to 80360**

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GET MORE OUT OF LIFE Friendly, blonde, blue-eyed Bolton female, 53, 5'6'', outgoing with GSOH, enjoys nights out, cooking, travel and more, would like to meet an honest, sincere man, for fun, laughter and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 134067 or send a text to 80360**

HOW ABOUT YOURSELF? Divorced, non-smoking female, 56, likes holidays, nights out, seeks genuine, kind chap, for a long term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 136418 or send a text to 80360**

A NEW CHAPTER Genuine, attractive lady from Blackburn, 56, brunette, enjoy socialising and would like to meet a caring, presentable man with gsoh, for days out and friendship initially. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 111316 or send a text to 80360**

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT Sweet and sincere Bolton girl, 57, 5'4'', brown-blonde hair, medium build, enjoys computers, reading and going to the gym, looking for a nice and faithful guy, to find love and settle down with. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 119949**

FROM THIS MOMENT Honest, easygoing Accrington female, 58, enjoys travel, holidays, days out and nice pub meals, seeking a decent chap, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 126796 or send a text to 80360**

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SHARING A LIFE Honest and happy Accrington lady, 58, 5'1'', own home, enjoys meals in & out, the countryside, holidays and more, seeking a decent, caring gent, for genuine company, friendship and love. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 101002**

A NEW START Friendly, warm-hearted female, 59, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, matured guy, for fun and much more. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 138924 or send a text to 80360**

THAT THING WE DO Positive, affable and sincere Burnley female, 60, 5ft, petite brunette, non smoker, would like to meet a realistic, appreciative man, to share the future with. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 139052 or send a text to 80360**

CATCH YOUR EYE... Divorced Burnley female, 60, 5', non drinker, loves animals, holidays and the fresh air, seeks friendly male for good times and company.iknow what its like being lonelly **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 117947**

QUIET MOMENTS Tall, slim Colne lady, 61, likes eating out, countryside, seaside, looking for a non-smoking man, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 133790 or send a text to 80360**

ENJOY LIFE'S JOURNEY Quiet Blackburn lady, 62, enjoys days out and holidays, seeking a non-smoking man, 5'6+, for friendship and long term happiness. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 137576 or send a text to 80360**

BRING THE SPARK BACK Confident Blackburn widow, 62, good sense of humour, likes politics, quizzes, local events, seeking a non-smoking gent, to enjoy life together. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 140413**

LIFE IS WORTH LIVING Independent, warm and sympathetic Bolton female, 62, enjoys theatre, film and the quiet life, would like to meet an adaptable, easygoing, friendly man, for company, friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 136595 or send a text to 80360**

IS IT YOU? Easygoing, solvent Barnoldswick widow, 63, many varied interests, searching for a non-smoking man, with GSOH, for friendship and company. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 113226**

LIVE THE LIFE YOU LOVE Non-smoking Blackburn female, 63, likes cinema, music, meals out, having a laugh, seeking a man, with similar interests **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 132031 or send a text to 80360**

BY YOUR SIDE Sweet, considerate and truthful, divorced Bolton girl, 64, just looking to meet an independent, liberal gent, for friendship and a fresh start in life. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 134730 or send a text to 80360**

SOMETHING LASTING Adaptable, relaxed and sensitive Bury female, 64, 5'1'', seeking a likeable, well-ordered male, for love and an honest future together. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 136506 or send a text to 80360**

HOW CAN YOU RESIST? Sensitive, lovable and truthful Blackburn female, 65, searching for a responsible, decent male, for fun times and happiness. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 868409**

IT HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN Slim, fun, happy and friendly Lancashire redhead, 66, nurse, with a young outlook on life, now looking for my soulmate. Could you be the one? You must be warm, genuine and always sincere. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 857045 or send a text to 80360**

HOPE WE CLICK Outgoing, attractive Bolton widow, 66, 5'2'', blonde, green eyes, GSOH, likes walks, dancing, cinema, good conversation and dining out, seeking a warm, genuine guy, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 125167**

PLENTY OF LOVING Blonde, brown-eyed Blackburn lady, 70, 5'5'', many interests, would love to meet a lovely, sensible man, for tender loving care. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 101525**

HOPEFULLY IT'LL BE YOU Slightly disabled, retired Blackburn farmer, 83, good sense of humour, seeking a non-smoking gent, for friendship and companionship. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 139602 or send a text to 80360**

THINGS IN COMMON? Shy Blackburn male, 26, likes nights in and out, meals and generally having a good time, seeking a non-smoking female, for friendship leading to love. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 115438 or send a text to 80360**

NICE TO BE WITH Dark-haired, brown-eyed Blackburn male, 32, 5'11'', medium build, looking for good-looking, loving female, 21-55, to settle down with. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 126950**

MERRY SPIRIT OF WONDER Loyal, determined and sensible Blackburn male, 32, would like to meet a sunny, adventurous lady, for happiness, love and laughter. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 136386 or send a text to 80360**

CARE FOR A WALK? Easygoing, reliable Blackburn guy, 37, tall, blue eyes, GSOH, enjoys socialising, keeping fit and cinema, searching for a genuine woman, funny, caring and honest, for romantic dates and more. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 114640 or send a text to 80360**

SOMEONE SPECIAL Loving, honest and reliable Blackburn man, 37, 5'10'', with blue eyes and many interests, just looking for that someone special, for a caring and sharing relationship. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 465058 or send a text to 80360**

PLEASANT PERSONALITY Happy, intelligent Nelson guy, 39, 6', green-eyes, very fit and active, N/S, N/D, likes music, dancing, nice foods, looking for an sensitive, caring and romantic woman. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 117765 or send a text to 80360**

SEE THE COUNTRY Good-looking Accrington guy, 39, 5'11'', enjoys walks and going to the gym, seeks sincere female, for weekends away, travel, cosy times and more. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 102220**

FOR A NEW START Independent, unconventional and understanding Nelson male, 42, self-employed, searching for a loyal, unconventional female, to build a lasting, happy future with. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 138446 or send a text to 80360**

MORE LOVE TO COME Good-looking Chorley male, 43, 5'6'', blue/grey-eyes, enjoys cinema, meals out, would like to meet a woman, for love. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 124303 or send a text to 80360**

HAPPINESS AHEAD Romantic Chorley guy, 45, 5'9'', cheeky smile, slim build, likes cooking, nights in and getting out and about, seeks an active woman, to share good times together. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 108102**

DON'T STOP BELIEVING! Busy single dad, genuine, caring, warm hearted, 46, GSOH, enjoys meals out and cosy nights in, would like to meet a similar minded lady, honest, Kind, to spend quality time with. St Helens/Lancs **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 112238**

CARE FOR SOMEONE Active, delightful Accrington male, 47, own home, likes the outdoors, country pubs, keep fit, gardening, drives and holidays, seeks a fun female, to enjoy good times together. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 136105 or send a text to 80360**

LOVE IS THE ANSWER Honest, loving, blue-eyed Blackburn male, 48, 6ft, stocky build, GSOH, looking for a genuine woman, to wine, dine and love. Could you be the one? **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 849502**

GSOH IS IMPORTANT Recently become available, tall, silver-hair, handsome 49yr old, easygoing character, looking for a slim, attractive, like-minded female, with a pedigree background. Clitheroe. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 125662 or send a text to 80360**

COSY TIMES Energetic, blue-eyed Darwen chap, 51, nice build, loving nature, searching for a similar woman, any race, to share dances, cinema and life. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 126639 or send a text to 80360**

FUN AND INDEPENDENT Warm-hearted Rossendale male, 52, 5'4'', slim build, many interests, likes animals, walks, cinema, music and more, seeking a nice, articulate woman, for a warm, loving and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 104881**

A FRESH START Genuine, honest, decent Carnforth guy, 52, 6', slim-build, likes meals out, cosy times in, holidays, drives, seeking a cuddly lady, 45-58, for love and romance. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 134793 or send a text to 80360**

HAVE A GOOD TIME Upbeat Blackburn male, 54, likes cooking, music, watching films, seeking a woman, for fun and laughter. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 138622 or send a text to 80360**

RETURN MY SPARKLE Active, genuine Burnley man, 54, happy outlook, good personality, enjoys the outdoors, seeking a smart, erudite, slim and pretty lady, for walks, talks and good old fashioned love and romance. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 115464**

MUST BE AN ANIMAL LOVER Self-employed Blackburn chap, 56, 5'8'', blue-eyes, slim-build, quite nature, like quite nights in/out, the countryside, very big dog lover, looking for someone special. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 125292 or send a text to 80360**

SAIL AWAY Easygoing Blackburn widower, 57, with a passion for sailing and climbing, own yacht, enjoys walks, gardening & diy, seeking a professional lady, with caring disposition and a love of cats. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 111138**

YOU'RE NOT ALONE Sincere Burnley male, 57, N/S, likes music, good conversation, leisurely walks and the finer things, especially home comforts, seeks loving lady, for a long term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 800094**

WAGON WHEEL Decent looking chap, 57, stocky build, very loving and honest, likes social drinks, driving, the seaside, looking for a decent woman. Burnley/Burnley **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 111906**

LIGHT THE SPARK Understanding, easygoing Burnley male, 58, own house, would like to meet a kind, honest, caring female, for friendship and company. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 129554 or send a text to 80360**

FUTURE HAPPINESS Upbeat Burnley male, 58, medium-build, own house, enjoys walking, cinema & reading, looking for a laid back woman with a good sense of humour, for good times and more. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 137232 or send a text to 80360**

LIKE TO KNOW MORE? Solvent Blackburn male, 62, own home and car, likes movies and a glass of wine, searching for a calm and genuine lady, for freindship and perhaps more? **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 875365**

TRULY MADLY DEEPLY Tactile, sensitive Blackburn chap, 62, slim, brown hair/blue eyes, enjoys cosy nights in, walks, holidays, caravanning and DIY, searching for a lasting relationship with a similar, loving woman. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 875025**

ALL IN A SMILE Caring, upbeat Preston male, 62, 5'7'', works as a support worker, likes going out, meals out, social drinks, seeking a lady, to enjoy good company time. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 138706 or send a text to 80360**

READY FOR A NEW START Young at heart, caring and loving Blackburn male, 63, N/S, looking for honest, sincere woman to share life's ups and downs. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 112279 or send a text to 80360**

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LASTING AND MEANINGFUL Young-at-heart, sociable Accrington male, 59, GSOH, 5'10'', N/S, med build, enjoys walking, holidays, music, reading and socialising, seeking a genuine and happy female, for friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 126829**

LIFE'S SIMPLE PLEASURES Nice, easygoing Preston gent, 60, GSOH, enjoys travel, sports, music, walking, museums and going for drink, seeking a nice lady to enjoy these good times with, maybe leading to a LTR. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 114563**

MY SIMPLE WISH Loving Burnly widower, 60, 5'8'', coach driver, many interests, searching for an active, friendly, nice lady, to enjoy the good things in life. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 104247**

QUALITY MOMENTS TOGETHER Widowed Blackburn male, 60, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, GSOH, no ties, looking for a loving female, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 102137**

LET'S ENJOY TOGETHER Solvent, upbeat Blackburn male, 61, good sense of humour, looking for a nice, slim-built lady, to share my life with. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 127266 or send a text to 80360**

BREATH OF FRESH AIR Decent tall, slim Blackburn guy, 61, gsoh, great company, young outlook, likes countryside, day trips, cosy nights, wltm similar slim decent lass, 50-60 to share life's simple pleasures. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 116839**

ARE YOU OUT THERE? Tall, reliable Clitheroe gent, 63, varied interests, still searching for a genuine and honest woman, to be my soul mate. Are you the one? **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 122670**

GAME OF LOVE Friendly, active and spirited Blackburn male, 66, seeking a homely, sympathetic female, to build a loving relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 130931 or send a text to 80360**

THE STARS SHINE FOR YOU Tactile, caring Chorley chap, 70, 5'9'', N/S, own car, divorced, likes meals out, cosy times in, garden centres and country pubs, seeks a non-smoking lady, for future happiness. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 102046**

IT'S THAT SIMPLE Easygoing Chorley male, 70, loves walks, places of interest, 60s-70s music, animals, seeking an easygoing lady, to enjoy life together. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 138632 or send a text to 80360**

SHY AT FIRST Blackburn widower, 70, likes the outdoors, cycling, pub lunches, travel, would to meet a lady, to share good times with. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 124540**

MISS FEMALE COMPANY Attractive, friendly Bolton woman, 49, 5'6'', enjoys many things, looking for a female, to enjoy the best things in life with. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 139852 or send a text to 80360**

ALL THE BEST Straight, friendly, interesting Blackburn lady, 77, likes holidays, cinema, shopping, chatting and dining with good company, searching for new female friends, to share interests and days out. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 137137**

ENJOY GOOD COMPANY Down-to-earth Blackburn male, 22, slim-build, good sense of humour, seeking a fun, outgoing girl, for fun, laughter and more. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 133736 or send a text to 80360**

BE MY SOULMATE Happy-go-lucky, kind-hearted Accrington female, 56, 5'9'', blond hair, blue eyes, likes music, travelling, shopping, would like to meet a romantic gent, **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 140242 or send a text to 80360**

APPEAL TO THE SENSES Romantic, honest Accrington male, 56, 5'9'', CD, blond, blue eyes, likes rock, pop music, socialising, fashion and most things in life, searching for a TV/CD male, to enjoy good times with. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 138031**

BE A FRIEND Happy-go-lucky, romantic Accrington male, 56, 5'9'', blond-hair, blue-eyes, seeking a ts/cd, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 134891 or send a text to 80360**

SOMETHING GOOD Down-to-earth Burnley male, #Age##, easygoing personality, searching for a masculine, nice guy, for friendship and some proper TLC. **Call 0905 005 2348 and enter box number 136715**

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Blackburn Citizen

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Pigeon racing cruelty probe

Pigeonfanciers across East Lancashire said they were outraged at the ass-ertion by an animal wel-fare organisation that the sport has a culture of 'unremitting and deliberate cruelty'.

The RSPCA has agreed to 'look into' the activity, after Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) put pressure on the charity to prosecute neg-ligent pigeon owners.

It follows an investigation by Peta showing three quarters of birds raced across the British Channel did not return, with tens of thousands of them presumed dead.

Undercover investigators also highlighted practices such as widowhood, or the separation of partnered birds, to make them fly faster, and inhumane culling of pigeons who are not strong competitors. Brian Dearn, secretary of the Lancashire Social Circle, said he would report anyone who made pigeons suffer.

He said: "Keeping them properly and racing them gives them a good life.

"They get fine food and warm houses provided for them. I'm not proud of it, but this means we have to take over nature's role and wring the necks of the weak or deformed ones. I've lost five per cent of my flock over the years, and this is likely to be because of birds of prey.

TAKE OFF: The start of a pigeon race

"I do widowhood, but cocks and hens are calmer if you separate them sometimes.

"People make animals do lots of things they don't want to, like making a dog wear a lead."

Harry Aspin, treasurer of Burnley Premier Homing Society, said he had raced pigeons for 60 years and had never heard of fanciers being reckless with their flock.

He said: "There's very little money in 99 per cent of the sport. Most weeks you are lucky if you get £5 at our races.

"It's when you bring big money in that pigeons start getting mistreated.

"I've got a bad chest and I'm not supposed to keep mine anymore, but I don't give them up because I love them."

Secretary of the society, Joyce Green, said: "Most of mine are portly and haven't a hope of winning a race.

"They're pets to me really."

A spokeswoman for the RSPCA said: "The RSPCA cares about all animals and takes all forms of animal cruelty and suffering seriously, including racing pigeons.

"We can confirm we have been given some information from Peta which we are looking into."

Musical treat at Cathedral

Lancashire Anglicans with a tuneful bent are invited to the second Blackburn Music Day.

Broadcaster, hymn writer, Church of Scotland minister and member of the Iona community, John Bell, will lead the event.

Blackburn Music Day 2013 – 'One Heart, One Voice' – will take place at St Wilfrid's Academy and Blackburn Cathedral on Saturday, April 20.

Bell will lead one of eight workshops throughout the day.

He is known for broadcasting on BBC Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' and composing hymns and songs.

Other workshop leaders include Steve James from Manchester and Samuel Hudson, director of Music at Blackburn Cathedral.

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Fri 12 Apr	Isle of Wight Superdeal	£119
Fri 12 Apr	Newquay & St Ives Special	£139
Fri 12 Apr	Torquay Special All-Inclusive	£149
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Fri 12 Apr	Isle of Wight All-Inclusive	£159
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Mon 22 Apr	Ostend All Inclusive	£229
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New role for department

Blackburn with Darwen Council said public health will 'run through everything it does' after taking on new reponsibilities.

Under the government's NHS reforms, the council now provides services such as stop smoking support and weight management.

Cllr Mohammed Khan said: "Public health will not just be an extra service...instead we see it as something that will run through everything we do because we know traditional council services such as housing, education, leisure and environment all play a vital role in people's health."

School must do better

Children at a Blackburn primary school do not always make enough progress with reading and writing, Ofsted inspectors have found.

St Antony's RC Primary School, in Shadsworth Road, was told it required improvement after its latest inspection.

However the behaviour and safety of children at the school was judged to be good.

Lead inspector Jim Bennetts said in a report: "The teaching of reading and writing could sometimes be more effective.

"There are missed opportunities with the marking of pupils' work.

"Some families do not do enough to make sure that younger children are brought to school regularly.

"The school has not yet attended to this problem firmly enough."

The Citizen

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STAYING AFLOAT: From left, Graham Vernon, chairman of the Canal Festival steering committee, organiser Bill Charnley and press officer Jayne Vernon

Cash needed to save canal fest

Organisers of Blackburn Canal Festival say they still need to raise thousands of pounds worth of sponsorship to ensure the event goes ahead.

The free festival, which will be centred on Eanam Wharf in July, is to include dozens of decorated barges, children's events, boat trips, kayaking, street theatre and crafts stalls.

If the community celebration is to go ahead, the festival's committee must find £3,500 to pay for toilet facilities and attractions, such as a bouncy castle.

Volunteers are also required to help with the running of the event.

Bill Charnley, chairman of the Blackburn Canal Festival committee, said: "We are looking for local businesses to chip in and do their bit with a few hundred pounds each.

"We want to make this a major event.

"It celebrates an important part of the history of Blackburn.

"The town's waterways were used in wool and cotton distribution throughout the nineteenth century, when the Leeds and Liverpool Canal was the main means of doing it.

"Firms in the area are part of its legacy."

Plans were given the go ahead by Blackburn with Darwen council in February following Burnley's successful canal festival last year.

The borough council has given £1,000 towards the event, and Coun Salim Mulla will be opening the festival as the new mayor.

He said: "It would be a real shame if the festival can't go ahead because they don't have enough money.

"All the community would come together to enjoy the event.

"There would also be a lot of other benefits to the town, such as putting money into the local economy.

"People would also come from the surrounding areas to be near the waterfront, ride in boats, and shop at the stalls."

Those interested in sponsoring the festival, or volunteering, should call Bill Charnley on 07939408221.

Competition

Win Frankie & Bennies vouchers

Follow us on Twitter:- @NQNW_Promotions

We have teamed up with Frankie & Bennies restaurants to offer 5 lucky readers the chance to win a £50 voucher to spend at their restaurants, plus free kids breakfast with the voucher on the right, simply cut it out and take it with you to the restaurant of your choice.

The themed restaurants reflect the 1950s Italian-American backstory. There are numerous artifacts in each restaurant which are in-keeping with the theme, such as old photos of Italian heritage Americans, publicity shots of musicians and sportsmen, and advertising posters from the period on both the walls and the menus.

How to enter: **By post** Send your answer along with your name and contact details to **Frankie & Bennies** Competition, Promotions Department, 23a Hardshaw Street, St Helens, Merseyside, WA10 1RT.

Phone: Simply call **0901 151 0222** and leave your answer and details when prompted.

Text: Send your text to **80360** starting with **BENNIES**, leave a space and then your answer, name, address and contact details.

Closing date: April 12,2013

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Question: What era do the themed restaurants reflect?

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CitizenTime

'I'd like to be a lean, mean, tough girl'

Angela Griffin has appeared in Coronation Street, Holby City, Cutting It and Waterloo Road, and more recently has turned to TV presenting. The married mother-of-two discusses a campaign to transform evening meals and how she fills her time while out of work

60 SECONDS WITH ... ANGELA GRIFFIN

TELL US ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN YOU'RE BACKING
I am backing Red Tractor's Highly Desirable TV Dinners campaign. Basically, there's research out that says that 60 per cent of people now sit down in front of the telly with their dinners on their lap rather than round the kitchen table. I'm not going to discourage people from doing that because I'm on the telly and I want them to watch me! But what does concern me is that a lot of the people doing that don't enjoy their food.

AND, OF COURSE, IN THESE TIMES OF HORSEMEAT SCANDALS, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT MEAT CAN BE TRACED
Exactly! When you buy the meat from a butcher, or from a supermarket, it will have a Red Tractor flag on it that will tell you exactly where it came from, and you can trace it to the farm where it was sourced. The one positive for me that's come out of the whole horsemeat scandal is that our local butcher is going through the roof - he's having an absolute ball!

WHAT SHOWS DO YOU LIKE TO WATCH WHILE YOU'RE EATING?
I'm loving Broadchurch. I adore Olivia Colman, she should be in everything, I think she's amazing. We've just finished watching Breaking Bad and I love Nurse Jackie as well.

IS THERE A SHOW YOU'D LOVE TO BE ON?
I'd really like to be a lean, mean tough girl.

What's on

THEATRE

THE GLASS MENAGERIE — Octagon Theatre, Bolton, Wednesday, March 27 to Saturday, April 20.
GO BACK FOR MURDER — Grand Theatre, Blackpool, Tuesday, April 2 to Saturday, April 6.

GIGS

COOPE, BOYES and SIMPSON — Bury Met, Thursday, April 4.
THE WILDHEARTS — Manchester Academy, Friday, April 5.
HAWKWIND — 53 Degrees, Preston, Friday, April 5.
COOPE, BOYES and SIMPSON — Mellor Brook Community Centre, Saturday, April 6.
ERIC JOHNSON — Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, Saturday, April 6.
DEPALMA, feat RICO RODRIGUEZ — The Grand, Clitheroe, Saturday, April 6.
PAUL McKENNA BAND — Bury Met, Saturday, April 6.
COOPE, BOYES and SIMPSON — Mellor Brook Community Centre, Saturday, April 6.
ERIC JOHNSON — Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, Saturday, April 6.
MISSING ANDY — The Grand, Clitheroe, Saturday, April 6.
PAUL McKENNA BAND — Bury Met, Saturday, April 6.
DANTEVILLES — with R.Y.A.N. and Last of the Dogs, Live Lounge, Blackburn, Saturday, April 6.
FEAST OF FIDDLES — Charter Theatre, Preston, Sunday, April 7.

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ABTA No.W0552

Tower date for League

Chart toppers The Human League will be playing in the grounds of Hoghton Tower this summer.

The pioneering electro-pop outfit, best known for the global hit Don't You Want Me? will give a special concert on Friday, July 5 along with special guests, in aid of St Catherine's Hospice.

The traditional fund-raising Symphony at the Tower which combines classical music with a spectacular firework display will be held the following night and sees singer and TV presenter Aled Jones performing with the Heart of England Philharmonic Orchestra and Sophie Evans from the BBC's Over The Rainbow.

Tickets for the Friday night are £25 before April 30, £29.50 from May 1 and £32 on the night.

Tickets for the Saturday night are £31 before April 30, £35 from May 1 and £37 on the night.

Concertgoers on the Saturday night can take their own picnics into the grounds of the historic hall.

There will be a variety of stalls selling refreshments over the course of the weekend.

Special VIP tickets are also available for both night which include a drinks reception, food and an exclusive viewing area.

For tickets, contact the box office on 0844 888 999.

EIGHTIES HITMAKERS: The Human League

Cinema round-up

THE CROODS (U)
Grug Crood has taught his family to be afraid of the dark and new experiences. During a forbidden night-time excursion, daughter Eep encounters a nomadic caveboy called Guy.

JACK THE GIANT SLAYER (12A)
FARM boy Jack (Nicholas Hoult) heads into town to sell his horse and cart. He encounters a monk (Simon Lowe) bearing a pouch of stolen beans.

IDENTITY THIEF (15)
SANDY Bigelow Patterson (Jason Bateman) learns that a Florida shopaholic called Diana (Melissa McCarthy) has stolen his identity and run up huge bills on his credit cards.

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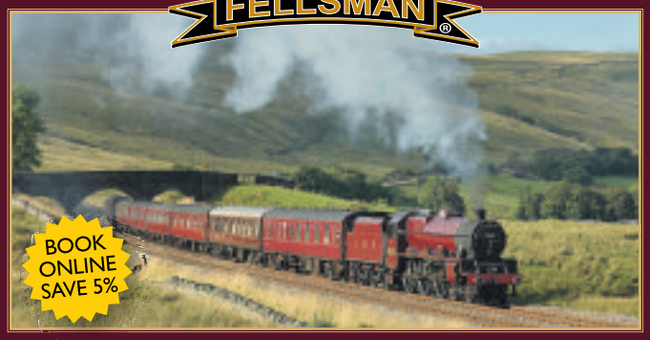

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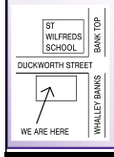

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